

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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R 200830Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9983
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOWI
USMISSION USUN NY
UNCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT. MR
SUBJ: COUP D'ETAT IN MAURITANIA: MISCELLANY

1. LARGE DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT FOR NEW MAURITANIAN REGIME
WAS ORGANIZED JULY 16 BY CONFEDERATION OF MAURITANIAN EMPLOYERS
AND ARTISANS (CEAM), MAJOR GROUP REPRESENTING MAURITANIAN
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. ONE HUNDRED THIRTY CARS AND TRUCKS
(DESPITE NEW REGIME'S EMPHASIS ON AUSTERITY) ASSEMBLED NEAR
AIRPORT, DROVE PAST PRESIDENTIAL PALACE HONKING AND WAVING
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BANNERS OF SUPPORT. PRESIDENT MOUSTAPHA LATER APPEARED, MINGLED
FREELY WITH ASSEMBLED CROWD.

2. ON MORNING 17 JULY, MAURITANIAN SOLDIERS GUARDING THE
PRESIDENTIAL GUEST HOUSE WHERE MAJORITY OF FORMER OULD DADDAH
CABINET BEING HELD, PACKED UP THEIR GEAR, INCLUDING THE
DETAINED MINISTERS, AND RELOCATED TO AN AS YET UNPZENTIFIED

POSITION. THE APPARENT TRANSFER OF THE OULD DADDAH CABINET TOOK PLACE ABOUT 0930 HOURS, ALTHOUGH THE MOVE WAS CARRIED OUT IN SUCH A MANNER THAT RESIDENTS OF THE NEIGHBORING HOUSES DID NOT SEE THE DEPARTURE OF THE DETAINEES. ACCORDING TO STAFF OF FORMER MINISTER OF PLANS AND MINES, BARO ABDOULAYE, THE MINISTER WAS NOT ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME AND THE FAMILY STILL HAD NO NEWS OF ANY PENDING RELEASE DATE AS OF 1130 HOURS 18 JULY.

3. TWO OFFICIALS HELD BY ARMY WERE RELEASED OVER WEEKEND. THEY ARE MOHAMED ALI SHERIF, FORMER SECRETARY-GENERAL OF PRESIDENCY, AND TIDJANE KERIM, SECRETARY GENERAL OF HIGHER YOUTH COUNCIL. SHERIF TOLD A RELATIVE HE RECEIVED EXCELLENT TREATMENT WITH ACCESS TO RADIO AND NEWSPAPERS, AND HAD SPENT MUCH OF THE TIME PLAYING CARDS.

4. ANOTHER PROMINENT FIGURE RELEASED WAS FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER M'BARECK. M' BARECK TURNED UP AT FRENCH EMBASSY'S BASTILLE DAY RECEPTION JULY 14, AND RKMOR HAS BEGUN MAKING ROUNDS THAT HE WILL BE NAMED GIRM AMBASSADOR TO PARIS.

5. WITH ALL IN NOUAKCHOTT APPARENTLY CALM, IT IS BELIEVED THAT ARMY UNITS WHICH PARTICIPATED IN COUP ARE BEGINNING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO RETURN TO NORTHERN PART OF COUNTRY. RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTERING CURFEW HAS BEEN SHIFTED TO POLICE, AND WATCHING HOUR MOVED BACK TO 2200Z. KRYZA

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